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fireproof building. The laying of the cornerstone took place with appropriate ceremonies on June 14, 1859. The formal establishment of the museum took place in October of the same year, by the presentation of Professor Agassiz's collections to the trustees.

The foundation was placed at first in the hands of a body of trustees appointed by the state, and it was not until 1875 that the museum was turned over and placed permanently in charge of the corporation of the university.

A small and lonely looking brick block which was erected at this time, with its four rooms to the floor, has grown nearly continuously around three sides of the great square originally laid out for it. A second section of the museum was soon added to the first, in 1871-2, and further additions were made in 1877, and again in 1880-2, and it was not until 1888-9 and 1901-2 that the last portions of the museum were finally added. The departments of botany and mineralogy and geology which have been added from time to time, and the Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology—the building of which was begun in 1876—form portions of the present structure now known as the university museum, of which the Museum for Comparative Zoology forms the major part.

The university museum contains thirty-two rooms in its ground plan, and is by far the largest building of the university. Nor is it an empty shell—it barely serves to house its treasures and the students thereof.

A glance at the plans of this building shows what grand results have been accomplished in a half-century's work, and what has followed from the inspiration of a great teacher. Intellectually, the institution has grown from the daring experiment of a great enthusiast to an important position among the leaders of the world's museums and laboratories. It is doubtful if any department of the university has brought home to it from the old world more fame, or if any department has done more enduring work for time to come.

It is well to recall these historical memoirs on this occasion, and it must never be for-

gotten that such progress and development would have been impossible without the lifetime devotion of two very remarkable men—father and son. One is gone; in his life and death he has had great praise. He deserved it, and the university should ever commemorate him. One is with us; we should not wait until he is gone to give praise to him. He is a major benefactor to the university, and a great figure in her history. To him the university owes not only a lavish fortune spent in her service, but much more than this—the lifework of a great administrator, and a great scientific man.

Your committee, therefore, are unanimously of the opinion that this fiftieth anniversary of the Museum of Comparative Zoology should be fittingly celebrated by the whole university, and, further, that no celebration could be so fitting as one which would evince the university's admiration of the scholar and the man—Alexander Agassiz. It strongly recommends, therefore, to your board timely and positive steps in this direction, and tenders its services if desired for more concrete suggestions or consultation.

J. COLLINS WARREN,  
*Chairman*

May 12, 1909

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

COLGATE UNIVERSITY has conferred its doctorate of laws on Dr. E. F. Nichols, president-elect of Dartmouth College. Dr. Nichols was professor of physics at Colgate University from 1892 to 1898.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE has conferred its doctorate of laws on Professor H. B. Fine, professor of mathematics at Princeton University.

THE degree of LL.D. has been conferred by the University of North Carolina on Dr. R. H. Whitehead, the new dean of the medical department of the University of Virginia.

ON the occasion of the Health Congress to be held at Leeds in July the honorary degree of LL.D. will be conferred by the university on the president of the congress, Col. T. W. Harding, and the honorary degree of D.Sc. on Sir

James Crichton-Browne and Major Ronald Ross.

THE French Institute has awarded the Osiris prize to M. Louis Blériot and M. Gabriel Voisin, the aeronauts and engineers, in recognition of their achievements and experiments in aerial navigation. The prize, which is of the value of £4,000, is awarded every three years to the person or persons who during that period shall have made the most remarkable contribution to the cause of human progress.

THE Pharmaceutical Society has awarded the Hanbury gold medal to Professor W. O. A. Tschirch, professor of pharmacognosy and practical chemistry at Berne University.

SIR FELIX SEMON, K.C.V.O., physician extraordinary to the king, is about to retire from practise, and a complimentary banquet is to be given him by his professional and other friends on July 2. The organizers of the banquet are anxious to found a lectureship or scholarship in his name to be a record of his scientific work.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that Professor A. Tamassia, of the chair of medical jurisprudence at the University of Padua was recently elected member of the Italian senate, and his election and the thirtieth anniversary of his connection with the university were celebrated simultaneously on May 29 by the presentation from the citizens, faculty and students of parchment testimonials, a gold medal, a bust of himself and a banquet.

DR. GOTTFRIED GALLE, the eminent astronomer, who since his retirement from Breslau twelve years ago, has been living in Potsdam, has celebrated his ninety-seventh birthday.

DR. EDWARD PFLÜGER, the eminent physiologist, has been made an honorary citizen of Bonn, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

DR. SAMUEL C. CHEW, professor of medicine in the University of Maryland, has resigned his position, which he has held for nearly forty-five years.

PROFESSOR LLOYD TANNER, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., has resigned the chair of mathematics

in Cardiff University College, after twenty-six years' service.

THE German Physiological Society has been meeting at Würzburg, under the presidency of Professor Max von Frey.

FREDERIC WALTON CARPENTER, Ph.D., has been appointed by the president and fellows of Harvard College to be director of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research for the summer session of 1909.

DR. RALPH ARNOLD, geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, formerly of Washington, D. C., resigned on June 1 and moved to Los Angeles, California, where he expects to continue his scientific investigations in connection with professional work as a consulting geologist and engineer.

MR. H. HELM CLAYTON has resigned as meteorologist of the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, with which he has been connected for many years. Mr. Andrew H. Palmer, a graduate student of meteorology at Harvard University, has joined Professor Rotch's staff.

MR. PIERCE LARKIN, A.B., University of Oklahoma, has been elected to a fellowship in the department of paleontology in the University of Chicago. He will spend the summer in collecting vertebrates in the Oklahoma Redbeds.

MESSRS. U. S. GRANT and D. F. Higgins sailed from Seattle on June 8 for Seward, Alaska, where they will begin a reconnaissance of the eastern part of Kenai Peninsula. They will use a large launch for traveling, as the work will necessitate passing many headlands that are open to the full sweep of the Pacific.

PROFESSOR W. E. STIMPSON, of the University of Kansas, has received a year's absence to work in the Bureau of Standards at Washington.

PROFESSOR CHARLES EDWARD A. WINSLOW, of the biological department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been granted leave of absence for three months, so that he may take the place of Professor E. O. Jordan, of the University of Chicago, during this fall when he will be in Europe.

DR. SANTIAGO ROTH, of the La Plata Museum, Argentina, has accepted membership on the International Correlation Committee of the National Academy of Sciences. The object of this committee is to obtain data for a better correlation of the geological succession in different parts of the world, a matter in which there is at present wide diversity of opinion. Dr. Roth will contribute especially upon the Mesozoic and Cenozoic formations of the Argentine Republic.

At the commencement exercises of the medical department of the University of North Carolina, Dr. William H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, delivered the address. Dr. Welch has now sailed for Europe.

A STATUE in honor of Theodor Swann, the physiologist, has been erected at Neusz where he was born.

PROFESSOR CARL N. I. BÖRGEN, for thirty-four years director of the Imperial Observatory at Wilhelmshaven, has died at the age of sixty-six.

DR. MARIA ARISTIDES BREZINA, formerly director of the mineralogical department of the Imperial Vienna Museum, died in Vienna on May 25, after a long illness, in the sixty-second year of his age. Dr. Brezina was one of the most brilliant and thorough of the European mineralogists. He devoted the latter part of his life to the study of meteorites and he created a vast amount of important literature on the subject, incidentally making the meteoric collection in the Imperial Museum in Vienna the most complete in existence. The mineralogical collections prospered under his direction; indeed, the Viennese collections were for many years the leading ones in Europe. Dr. Brezina leaves a wife, two daughters and a sister.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE mechanical and electrical engineering laboratories of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, erected at a cost of about \$400,000 from the fund given by Mrs. Russell Sage, were dedicated on June 15, at the eighty-fifth commencement of the institution. Addresses were made by Jesse M. Smith, president of

the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and by Louis B. Stillwell, president-elect of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

For the purpose of maintaining at Cornell University a number of students who are to pursue research work in engineering, Mr. L. L. Nunn, of Telluride, Colorado, is building on the campus and will endow a clubhouse in which the investigators that he sends there are to live.

A FELLOWSHIP in chemistry of the annual value of \$500 has been endowed by Dr. Milton L. Hershey, of Montreal, in the School of Mining, Kingston, Ontario. It is open to graduates of all universities and technical colleges.

MR. CHARLES MARTEN POWELL, formerly scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, has given £250 a year to the college in order to enable it to augment the stipend of White's professor of moral philosophy, in accordance with the statutes of the last commission.

KING EDWARD will lay the foundation stone of the first new building of the Imperial College of Science and Technology for the departments of mining, metallurgy and geology (Royal School of Mines), and in extension of the engineering department (City and Guilds College), on July 8. The buildings are to be erected on the land in Prince Consort-road, South Kensington, lying to the east of the Royal College of Music and to the north of the City and Guilds College.

At Harvard University Edward Murray East, of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, has been appointed assistant professor of experimental plant morphology, O. K. O. Folin becomes Hamilton Kuhn professor of biological chemistry, E. E. Southard, Bullard professor of neuropathology and Myles Standish, Williams professor of ophthalmology.

AMONG the promotions to full professorships at the University of Wisconsin are Dr. Richard Fischer, analytical chemistry, and Dr. H. C. Taylor, agricultural economics. The following were promoted from assistant profes-